

The Rt. Hon. Dr Thérèse Coffey,
M.P.
Secretary of State for Work &
Pensions
Department for Work & Pensions
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Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

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Dear Dr Coffey,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council to express our dismay at HM Government's choice to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit. We request that this decision is reversed and that the uplift is instead permanently incorporated into the system.

The Council finds it unconscionable that HM Government would take much needed support away from lower-income households when – especially with the significant increases in the cost of living – they need it most. To undermine the finances of working families at this time, when there is so much economic uncertainty, contradicts any claim that you are acting in a fair and compassionate manner. We, therefore, share the grave concerns expressed by local and national charities about the potential impact of this cut on the financial security and wellbeing of households who rely on this support to simply survive.

While the Vale have noted statements from Ministers regarding the UK moving to a high-wage economy, it would appear illogical to us that you would decide to oversee the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security at the start of this supposed transition rather than at its end. The 5,000+ families in our district directly affected by this decision cannot pay their bills, feed their children or heat their homes on the potential future prospect of increased pay packets.

We, therefore, request – as a matter of urgency – that you reverse the decision to cut the £20 uplift in Universal Credit.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Smith', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council